Minutes: Iowa Council for Early ACCESS

Date, time, and

Date: May 21, 2010

place

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Place: Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston, Iowa

Attendance

Present: Diane Eastman (for Michael Acarregui), Jodi Angus, Maggie Baker, Mike Bergan, Jane Borst, Angela Burke Boston, Gina Greene, Julie Hahn, Angela Hance, Kelly Hancock, Stacy Kramer, Heather Moorman, LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl,

Carolyn Sodders, Mary Stevens, Beth Troutman, Debra Waldron **Staff**: Julie Curry, Marion Kresse, Meghan Wolfe, Angi Walker

Excused: Gladys Alvarez, Sara Freiberg, Barbara Merrill, Jeff Anderson

Guests: Jule Reynolds, Staff Assistant to Senator Harkin

Call to order

Kelly Hancock called meeting to order, introductions of Council members and guests took place.

Approval of previous minutes

The council reviewed the ICEA minutes from March 5, 2010.

Action. Motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Michael

Bergan and seconded by Stacy Kramer. The motion passed.

Announcement

Kelly Hancock announced that Stacy Kramer will be leaving the Council after this year to accept a teaching position. She thanked Stacy for her service.

Family Story

Jule Reynolds told the council about her son Adam who weighted 2 lbs 1 ½ ounces when he was born. He was not expected to make it through the night. At that time premature babies did not have a high survival rate. Adam was in the hospital 4 months initially. He had multiple bleeds in his brain that caused vision problems. At that time there was no nurse that could come to help at the home. Whenever there was a problem, they had to go to the hospital. She felt awful leaving her 18 month old home while she was in the hospital with Adam. Right away, Early Childhood people came to her rescue. In the midst of the disaster they had something positive to offer. They also helped her daughter transition into the situation.

When Adam was 8 they went to the Cincinnati Children's Hospital for an operation. There were 4 children waiting to have the same operation, two of these children did not make it. The surgery allowed Adam to breathe without a ventilator. After the surgery, her doctor insisted that Adam go to school when he came back home. Adam did have to switch schools a few times, but he graduated high school with a regular high school diploma. The doctor helped her realize that Adam should not live an isolated life. He needed to be a part of the community. Jule shared her opinion that the people in the system today do not know the way that it used to be. They don't realize the benefit of advocating for services.

Lead agency and signatory updates

Kelly Hancock

Executive Committee Update with Kelly

- The Executive Committee is looking at different family screening tools.
- The Executive Committee wants to improve the family survey and is forming a committee to work on this.
- If ICEA members are interested in serving on the committee to explore these options, please contact Julie, Marion or Kelly.

Lead Agency Update

- The State Application was posted for public comment.
- No comments were received.
- An additional \$108,000 was received compared to last year's funding.
- This is the first time Iowa has received an increase in a number of years.
- Suggestions are being collected on how to sustain the system after the ARRA funds run out, in approximately 2011.
- Meetings were held with the Regional Grantees to gather suggestions on how to sustain current programs.

QSR Summary Meghan Wolfe

- A Quality Service Review (QSR) was conducted from April 19 23rd in Region 1 (Eight counties in northeast Iowa).
- The team reviewed 10 Early ACCESS cases and interviewed families and service providers.
- The purpose is to measure both performance and results. The goal of the QSR hope to find what is working, and some areas that may need some improvement in the Region.
- The teams interviewed 54 service providers and families.
- Difficulties identified by providers were that they feel that they have high case loads, more challenging medical issues, and difficulties in working with diverse families.
- Strengths that were noted included a strong transition process in place for this region.
- Most families interviewed were satisfied with services in this region.
- Some areas for improvement identified included the fact that not all partners
 are involved on the IFSP development. Language and cultural barriers are
 an issue. Complex medical issues are a challenge. There were no health or
 family outcomes on the IFSPs.
- The region will use the QSR results to develop improvement plans.
- Thank you to Council member Michael Bergan who participated with the QSR review as a community partner!

Legislative updates

DHS update by Marion Kresse on behalf of Jeff Anderson

- Furloughs are being taken caused by across the board budget cuts.
- DHS will reduce 8 service areas to 5 service areas.
- The director did try to keep as many staff in the field as possible. As many as 30% of staff were eligible for retirement this year.
- The Family Support Subsidy program is being eliminated. Funding will continue for families currently enrolled, but no new families will be added.
- A number of Empowerment areas have been consolidated, creating some issues of coverage, and working with new partners.

DE update by LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl and Julie Curry

- Early ACCESS funding was flat-level funded, it was not cut.
- Some changes to the Empowerment program include a change in the name to Early Childhood Iowa. It will continue to have a board and a council for representation.
- The Department's At Risk dollars were level funded.
- We are having some issues with data, Empowerment will be working with the school system to assign tracking numbers.
- The DE is re-applying for Race to the Top, a federal grant to improve education.

CHSC update by Debra Waldron

- Dr. Waldron emphasized the need to educate legislators that they cannot just look at part of the child, it is essential to look at the whole child.
- CHSC has had an overall 20% reduction in the last two years. Funding cuts appearing in programs with children for special needs.

DPH update by Meghan Wolfe

- Getting insurance coverage for hearing aids was discussed this session. This
 bill got the furthest it has gone, but it was put on hold, depending upon
 funding.
- DPH is attempting to get this program back up and running. The program is currently working off of the waiting list, with no "live" request available at this time.
- Public Health received some stimulus dollars, which helped with state budget cuts. Next year this stimulus funding will no longer be available, so there will be a shortfall that will need to be addressed.
- Retirements may help with budgeting, but furloughs have put them behind in completing work.

Priority setting activity

- 1. ICEA members reviewed the suggested activities generated at the March ICEA meeting as well as the MOA Action Plan.
- 2. Members ranked the various strategies in order of importance.
- 3. State staff will compile "votes" and notes.
- 4. These suggestions will go to the Executive Committee and full council as well.
- 5. The Executive Committee will decide how to respond to priority areas at their next meeting.

Committee reports

By-Laws Committee update by Michael Bergan

- Suggested changes were sent out 5 weeks ago.
- These changes involved combining Membership and Nominating Committees because of overlap; also clarification on membership and term expiration, particularly attendance requirements.

Action. Motion by Michael Bergan to adopt changes, second by Jodi Angus. The motion was approved unanimously.

Some important items to note regarding attendance include

- The governor's office said that if someone sends a delegate in their place, then it does not count as them having missed that meeting.
- If a member misses 3 consecutive meetings, or more than half of the total meetings, the governor may accept the member's resignation, it is not automatic.

Membership and Nomination Committee update by Marion Kresse

- The committee has filled all slots except for one, which was a recent resignation.
- The proposed names will go to the governor for approval.
- The positions of Vice Chair and Parent Representative on the Executive Committee need to be filled.
- The finalized slate will be emailed once the two openings are filled, and will be voted on at the September meeting.

Public Policy update by Julie Hahn

- Spoke about A Day on the Hill with parents, this event worked well with family stories to the legislators.
- The Council needs to formulate a better plan to be able to talk to the legislators. Please forward ideas to Julie on ideas to be more effective.

Governor's Report update by Carolyn Sodders

- The committee believes they have settled into a format, and welcome suggestions for changes in format.
- They would like to have new family stories each year for this report to show how Early ACCESS is connected with the state system.

Sharing

- Stacy Kramer shared that Ask Resource center sent out fliers for pajama party. This will be teleconference for children with special needs. Stacy will forward this information to the group. Thanked the group for a great experience.
- Julie Hahn shared that Hands and Voices has received a grant to purchase a book.
- Beth Troutman is looking for volunteers with interest in Infant Mental Health Association. Iowa was one of the first chapters of the National Association.
- Julie Curry attended the Infant Toddler Coordinator Association, and served on Think Tank for Fragile X. They have found that the timeline from when parents notice that something is wrong until services are received has remained the same.
- Debra Waldron shared that CHSC wants to start being recognized as providing training, education, and a system of care, not just direct care services
- Carrie Sodders shared that the Head Start Act was reauthorized, and draft regulations should be available in the fall. These will go out for public comment, and then will go into practice. Her agency had a federal site review, and the outcome was good.
- LauraBelle shared the possibility that OSEP may conduct a fiscal accountability audit for Part B and Part C with the Department of Education. The Early Childhood Services Bureau will only have one retirement, and believe that they will be able to replace this position. Other bureaus have supervisory personnel retiring.
- Michael Bergan shared that changes are to be implemented due to restructuring. There was a 15% reduction to Community Empowerment. One change to have residual impact is support for childcare nurse consultants.
- Kelly Hancock gave certificates of appreciation and thanks to the members of the council whose terms have ended.

Adjournment

Kelly Hancock noted that the next meeting will be on September 17th, 2010; and that new member orientation will be September 16th. Motion to adjourn by LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl, second by Julie Hahn. Motion carried.